

<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant	<input type="checkbox"/> Patente <u>e</u> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Application No.	<input type="checkbox"/> Patent No. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Filed on _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Issued on _____

Title: Improved System and Method for Facilitating Pipe and Conduit Coupling

**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(c))—SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby state that I am

the owner of the small business concern identified below:  
 an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

Name of Small Business Concern CUSTOM PIPE & COUPLING CO., INC.

Address of Small Business Concern 10560 Fern Street  
Stanton, CA 90860

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern, as defined in 13 CFR 121.12, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office under Sections 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third-party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to, and remain with, the small business concern identified above, with regard to the invention described in

the specification filed herewith, with title as listed above.  
 the application identified above.  
 the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c), if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

\*NOTE: Separate statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention as to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

Each such person, concern or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:

No such person, concern, or organization exists.  
 Each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL       SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN       NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL       SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN       NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small business entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

(check the following item, if desired)

NOTE: The following verification statement need not be made in accordance with the rules published on Oct. 10, 1997, 62 Fed. Reg. 52,131, effective Dec. 1, 1997.

NOTE: "The presentation to the Office (whether by signing, filing, submitting, or later advocating) of any paper by a party, whether a practitioner or non-practitioner, constitutes a certification under § 10.18(b) of this chapter. Violations of § 10.18(b)(2) of this chapter by a party, whether a practitioner or non-practitioner, may result in the imposition of sanctions under § 10.18(c) of this chapter. Any practitioner violating § 10.18(b) may also be subject to disciplinary action. See §§ 10.18(d) and 10.23(c)(15)." 37 C.F.R. § 1.4(d)(2).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

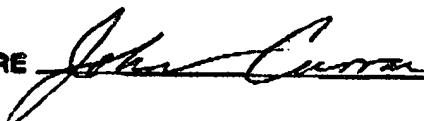
Name of Person Signing John Curran

Title of Person if Other Than Owner President

Address of Person Signing 10560 Fern Street

Stanton, CA 90860

SIGNATURE

 Date 6/27/03

(Small Entity—Small Business [7-4]—page 2 of 2)